

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature frequently portrays human suffering as a stimulus for character evolution. Literary narrative trauma exemplifies a significant form of suffering. Trauma is an event that deeply disturbs a person and makes it hard for them to deal with it. It also has long-lasting emotional effects. In literature, trauma is something that happens to someone that changes how they feel, think, and act. A lot of novelists write about how their characters deal with trauma and how they get through it.

Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre* shows how trauma shapes the main character's life. Jane has been pushed to the side emotionally and socially many times, from being turned down as a child at Gateshead to being punished harshly at Lowood School. These formative experiences create internal conflict and make her want to be independent, have dignity, and feel good about herself. Her later decisions, particularly regarding her relationship with Rochester, are closely related to the profound impact of her childhood adversity.

Additionally, the novel's narrative structure shows a change from oppression to freedom. Jane's journey through different places shows not only physical movement but also mental change. Trauma is the initial disruption that brings about her development. The novel illustrates transformation as a slow shift from vulnerability to self-determined identity through this progression.

Structuralism, influenced by theory of Saussure and the concept Claude Levi-Strauss, emphasizes that meaning is produced through difference and binary

opposition. In this perspective, a character's development can be understood as movement across structural contrasts. Therefore, Jane's transformation can be analyzed as a shift within a system of oppositions that structure the entire narrative.

This research will be focuses to the internal structure of the text. By examining how binary oppositions and narrative organize the novel, this research aims to demonstrate that Jane's character development is not merely thematic but structurally constructed.

1.2 Research Problem

This research aims to explore how trauma is depicted in the character of Jane. The research question follows by:

1. How is trauma structurally constructed in the narrative of *Jane Eyre*?
2. How does the narrative structure transform trauma in the development of Jane's character?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Following to the research problem, described above. There are the objectives of the study as following:

1. To analyze how trauma constructed in the narrative of *Jane Eyre*.
2. To examine how narrative development transforms Jane's trauma.

1.4 Previous Study

For this research, the writer finds several research previous studies that have the same work for the research study, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* novel.

First, "*Jane Eyre: The Portrayal of Charlotte Bronte's Life and The analysis of Gender Roles as well as Charlotte Bronte's Rejection toward Victorian*

Woman Tradition Roles” by Hangga Tirtana. In that research, it focuses on Jane struggle toward strict authority and the system in the Victorian era. Second, “*An Analysis of Word Formations Used In “Jane Eyre” Novel by Charlotte Bronte*”. Third, “*Charlotte Bronte’s Criticisms on Hypocrisy: A Central Character Analysis in Jane Eyre*” explains about the criticisms on hypocrisy in the society and personality of *Jane Eyre*’s. It is said that to find personality of *Jane Eyre* by using the personal description and the criticisms on hypocrisy. Fourth, “*Teaching and Education in Charlotte Bronte’s Novels Jane Eyre and The Professor*” by Bc. Jaroslava Gregorova. In that research it focuses on the the historical point of view. Fifth, “*An Analysis on the Theme of Charlotte Bronte’s Novel “Jane Eyre” through Character, Plot and Setting*” by July Panca Nugroho. It is said that analysis the theme through character development in the novel by using the element of the novel of *Jane Eyre*. Sixth, “*A Psychoanalytic Reading of Jane Eyre’s Identity Formation*” by Fatemeh Azizmohammadi. It focuses on how Jane’s sense is shaped by her experiences, and her internal conflicts and personal development as she seeks autonomy and self-worth in male-dominated society. Seventh, “*Trauma and Recovery in Jane Eyre*” by Rebeeca Swartz. It uses trauma theory to explore Jane’s suffering during childhood and focuses on the psychological impact. Eighth, “*The Sensational Jane Eyre*” by Sue Thomas. It focuses on the dark secret, shocking events, and dramatic events that make the novel emotionally intense. Ninth, “*Unstable Bodies: Victorian Representation of Trauma*” by Jill. L Matus. It focuses on how physical and emotional trauma were represented in 19th century literature. She shows how authors Bronte depicted the effects of trauma on women’s minds

and bodies. Tenth, “*The Deveploment of the Female Voice in Jane Eyre*” by Andrea Varela. It focuses at how Jane grows into an independent woman by developing her ‘voice’ her ability to speak up, make choices, and claim moral autonomy.

Most of the previous study from above do research about *Jane Eyre* have a common interest in Jane’s personal struggle, identity, and the challenges she faces in society. Some of the research focuses on Jane’s resistance to authority and gender roles, while others explore her personality, internal roles, and growth. And some of the studies examine trauma and emotional suffering, which is closely related to the writer’s research.

The difference which this research has from the previous studies is that this research focusses specifically on the trauma in Jane’s life. It explores how Jane’s past trauma is expressed, how it shows in her behavior, and how she eventually finds the treatment for herself. And this research uses structuralism as the theory, which is not found in the previous studies.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This research will only focus the character of Jane in the *Jane Eyre* novel. It will study the traumatic events she goes through and how it affects her emotions and decisions. It focuses on examining how the narrative structure constructs Jane’s transformation through patterns of binary oppositions such as oppression versus freedom, passion versus reason, dependence versus independence, and isolation versus belonging. The novel is analyzed as a unified system in which meaning is produced through structural relationships and contrasts within the text.

1.6 Methods of the Study

This research will be using qualitative methods demonstrate a different approach to scholarly inquiry than methods of quantitative research, also qualitative methods rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and draw on diverse designs. (Creswell, 2018:292).

In collecting the data, the writer will conduct library research by studying various articles, books, journals, and other written sources. The qualitative nature of the research is reflected in the interpretation of the character's inner life in the novel.

Thus, this research applies a contextual method which focuses on a structuralist approach, especially on the inner experiences and development of the character Jane. In using library research, the method of collecting data involves identifying primary and secondary.

The primary data in this research is the novel *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. The secondary data includes relevant journal articles, previous research, and theoretical texts that support the analysis and interpretations made in this study. A secondary source, meanwhile, interprets, analyzes, and discusses the information present in the primary source. By applying this method, it is expected for the writer to provide a clear understanding of how trauma in Jane's character throughout in the novel.

1.7 Organization of the Writing

Chapter 1: Introduction

In this chapter, the writer will discuss background, research problem,

objective of the study, previous study, methods of the study, scope of the study, method of the study, and also organization of the writing.

Chapter 2: Theoretical Framework

In theory, the writer will describe the use of intrinsic with character, plot, conflict, symbol, and setting. The method will be explaining the use of the method. The write will use qualitative method.

Chapter 3: Discussion

In this chapter, the writer will get into details about the discussion of the topic about Jane's beginning trauma. The first part will discuss about the intrinsic analysis of the story, it will talk about character, plot, conflict, symbol and setting. In the second part, it will talk about Jane's the beginning of trauma experience.

Chapter 4: Conclusion

This chapter contains the conclusion of the discussion's result about the research.